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EXAMINER: Barney, S. E.

TITLE: UNITIZED MAT TO FACILITATE GROWING WOODY PLANTS

AMENDMENT "A"

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
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Amendment A: SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

In Paragraphs [0098] to [0099], please amend the paragraphs as follows:

[0098] The fluid-conveying passageways **50h** comprise multiple sections of flow restricting means **35h, 36h, 37h & 39h** having various lengths to both distribute the fluid and reduce the fluid pressure. Primary restricting means **35h, 36h, & 37h** act as both distribution headers and as flow restriction means. Multiple secondary flow restricting means **39h** act to further reduce and balance the fluid flow to each of the outlet ports **70h 26h**. This embodiment eliminates the need for a distribution header with large cross section with its inherent potential for sediment accumulation due to low flow velocity. In this particular embodiment, the flow restricting means **35h, 36h & 39h** are composed of tortuous paths as practiced by the prior art and also designed to equally space the outlet ports **70h 26h** around the circular unitized mat **10h**. This tortuous path configuration allows for proper operation when used with smaller container sizes.

[0099] A serrated opening **83h 70h** is provided for the plant to grow through. An overlapping seam **76h** is provided to allow installation around the trunk of the plant without exposure of any soil. The outer edge **100** is sized to closely fit the container and may optionally have flexible extensions **86h** to allow for variations in the container size.